AN

EPISTLE

BY THE

Life of Truth

In the Love of God, to all

THE

BRETHEREN In ENGLAND

Greeting, who are called

QUAKERS,

BUT

More especially the South, East and West parts of this

ISLAND,

Throw him who daily wisheth Grace, Mercy, and Peace, and the love of God may abound in all the Children of the First-born.

Printed in the Year 1665.

An Epiſtle by the life of Truth in the love of God, &c.

Friends,

MAny a time ſince my Confinement in this place of *Edmondsbury*, both night and day I have remembred you, and have waited for an opportunity to viſit you with a few lines, having no other way at preſent to manifeſt my love unto you; therefore, now it is upon my ſpirit to recommend theſe things following to your conſideration, for the encouragement of all the Travelers towards Zion, and for the comforting of all the Mourners therein, that none might faint in their journey, nor be diſcouraged at theſe things, which they may meet withal, which will onely be for the tryal of their Faith, that the approved may be made manifeſt, and the Hypocrites diſcovered, and every falſe birth be brought to its end; and for this end is the Lord riſen in theſe laſt dayes, in which he hath gathered a people out of the many gatherings, and from the mouths of the falſe Shepherds, and hath brought them to the true Shepherd, even to *Chriſt Jeſus the Light of the World*; and not onely ſo, but hath given them power and ſtrength, and ability to walk in the ſame Light, by which many of the myſteries of Gods Kingdom have been opened, and the myſterious working of the power of darkneſs diſcovered, by which many, as the firſt born from the dead, have walked in the Light of life, and have witneſſed the ſweet refreſh-

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refreshments, and Heavenly comforts from the Lord, to be manifested to their poor Souls, which hath raised a love in their hearts to the Lord, and hath kindled a zeal, and raised a fervent desire in them to follow the Lord to the end, by the guidance of his eternal Spirit; this I know is the frame of the Spirit of all them that have received Gods truth in the love of it; and since that day of the manifestation of the love of God in Christ the light, and since we received, believed, loved and obeyed it, the Lord hath been as a Rock unto us, and as a tower for us, and as a refuge in the times of our enemies pursuit; for no sooner had we turned our backs of spiritual Egypt, but we had many pursuers and mighty enemies within and without; Oh how did we tremble, and what fear was in our hearts, and how did the Lord appear for us in the day of our Childhood in the truth, yet did he help us, and deliver us out of the hands of our enemies, and kept us to our admiration, so that though we were cast down the Lord did not forsake us, but brought us from the Oynions and Garlick, and the flesh pots of Egypt, and allured us into the Wilderness, where he hath spread our table, and hath spake comfortably to us, and hath given us water out of the Rock, and bread that the world knoweth not off, and hath made us a way through the Wilderness, and a path through many a thicket: Well, what may we say of the goodness of the Lord? Oh how may we set forth his excellent Name, who hath brought us into the way everlasting, and hath lead us as with a cloud by day, and as by a pillar of fire by night, thus hath he taken care of us as a tender Father, and hath not left us in a day of distress, neither forsaken us in the hour of Calamity, blessed be his Name for evermore. Therefore, dear Brethren, and Sisters and Friends, who are made witnesses of this the

goodneſs of the Lord, and have taſted of the incombes of his life, and have been found faithful witneſſes to his truth received by you: Well, your Names ſhall not be forgotten, neither ſhall you miſs of your expected end, which is the Salvation of your Souls; you are highly favoured in his ſight, and he delights in you, you are a ſweet ſavour in his noſtrils, and as a diadem in his hand, you are his choice ones, and he will never leave you, yet ſhall ye not go untryed, neither ſhall ye dwell at eaſe, but ſhall be as a traveling woman, and as one that labours to bring forth her firſt born, and as labourers in the Vineyard, who ſhall receive a reward: Therefore, every one who have taſted of the goodneſs of the Father, and have drunk of the brook by the way, look not out, neither be diſcouraged at what tryals or exerciſes thou may'ſt meet withal, for now is the Lord riſen to plead with all fleſh, and to ſhake all that can be ſhaken, and all things below begins to have upon them the face of blackneſs, and people, and nations, are as the waters, or as the rowl ng waves of the Sea that cannot reſt, fear and perplexity, and diſtreſs on every ſide, a day of darkneſs ſuch as hath not been for Ages and Generations, is coming, a day of horror and woful lamentation, to all the ungodly who live at eaſe, as if there was no end of their riches, neither time to waſt their delicacies; Oh the Lord hath ſeen, and the Almighty hath taken notice, and is now come to try all the Profeſſors of his Name that the Profeſſors may be known from the poſſeſſors, and that it may be known there is a God in Iſrael, who can do whatſoever pleaſeth him; Therefore dear Friends, bleſſed are you that truſt in the Lord, and wait upon him in the Covenant of Light, you ſhall be preſerved in peace with the Lord, and ſhall enjoy his preſence, for that is the marrow of our Religion, even Gods preſence, therefore put

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on ſtrength ye children of the moſt high God, who have none to fly to but unto him, though the foxes have holes, and the birdes of the aire have neſts into which they are creeping, yet will they be found out, for the Lord is ſearching as with candles, and the beaſt ſhall hate the Whore, and ſhall make her deſolate, and ſhe ſhall appear as ſhe is, and from the Lord ſhall drink a bitter cup without mixture becauſe of her Fornication, and of her treachery and hypocriſie, holding forth the Golden Cup filled with abominations, by which many have been deceived, but much farther ſhe ſhall not proceed, her end is near, her deſolation is at hand, and it ſhall be known that the Lord alone is to rule in the Kingdomes of Men. So happy will they be that are faithful to the Lord, and have him for their guide, and take not councel of man, for rich men are vanity, and poor men are a lie, but of the Lord and of his truth there is none, for he ſets free, and gives power to all his Children to obey him, who is the God of Salvation, who leads them through many tryals, and maketh them white thereby, and ſupporteth them in the deepeſt exerciſe, though many at this day are ſaying as *Peter* did, *Maſter, ſave thy ſelf*, yet we know, *he that ſaveth his life ſhall looſe it, and he that looſeth his life for Chriſts ſake and the Goſpel ſhall find it*; And becauſe of this our faithful Teſtimonie many are ſaying as *Eliab* did to *David*, who came down when they ſhouted to the battel, *I know thy pride and the malice of thy heart, thou art come down to ſee the battel*; then *David* ſaid, *what have I done, is there not a cauſe?* And this is our cauſe at this day, wherein many are *defying the Iſrael of God*; though we have not neither ſhall we go out with Sword nor ſpear, neither with pride nor malice in our hearts; but in the name of the Lord, and in the ſtrength of the mighty JEHOVAH, in the meek and the quiet ſpirit;

rit; therefore let none discourage you, ye valient ones, for the Lord is with us, and who can be against us, we seek not our own glory, but the glory of the Lord alone, and for his sake have and do suffer grievous things, because we love our peace with him, he hath cloathed us with innocency, which is the strength of our loynes, and refreshed us with the incombes of his life, which hath been the comfort of our hearts; therefore, let not the frowns nor flatteries of any prevail upon you in this cloudy and dark day, but stand still and in patience wait upon the Lord, so shall you witness him unto you, your everlasting reward; and as you wait upon him, in whom you have believed, so will you know him fitting of you, for life and death, or bonds, or liberty, for prosperity or adversity, and in every state ye will be content, so shall you be as a bride adorned for her husband, and shall witness the Lord to be with you; and though he take you from the Earth, yet are ye with him, and can make your appeals unto him, and say as good *Hezekiah* did, *Lord remember how I have walkt before thee with an upright and with a perfect heart*; the Lord will have pitty on thee, and the Almighty will spare thee, and gather thee unto himself; *but fear, a snare, and the pit shall be the portion of the ungodly; for, the Sinner cannot stand in judgment, nor the ungodly in the Congregation of the Righteous*; for now the anger of the Lord is kindled, and his arrows are flying abroad, and the destroying Angel is gone forth f om the presence of the Lord, by which already many Fathers are left Childless, and many a Wife now Widow, and many Children parentless; and yet for all this, few turn to the Lord by true repentance: Well, the Lords anger is not yet over, but his hand is stretched out still, it's yet but the beginning of sorrow, even that I may cry and say, *Ah sinful Nation, ah people laden with iniquity,*

a ſeed of evil doers, will not the Lord viſit thee, and the Almighty be avenged of thee? who hath given thee line upon line, and precept upon precept, who hath corrected thee in love, that thou mighteſt return, but thou wouldſt have none of his Counſel; and yet the Lord through his infinite love *hath plucked us as brands out of the fire*, and hath brought us to *ſit under the Vine where none can make us afraid*: And now dearly beloved Friends, who are as the firſt fruits unto God, keep your Habitations, for the time is near that that Scripture ſhall be fulfilled, which ſaith, *Nation ſhall riſe up againſt Nation, and Kingdom againſt Kingdom, and every Kingdom devided againſt it ſelf ſhall not ſtand*; And theſe things ye may hear and ſee, *yet be not troubled*, for what have we to do in this matter, *our Kingdom is not of this World, neither is our Crown of rejoycing in viſible things*; for it ſhall be as it hath been ſpoken, *The people of the Lord ſhall dwell alone, and ſhall not be numbred amongſt the Nations*. Therefore, be *ſtill*, be *ſtill* in this day, while all people out of truth, are as the troubled waters that cannot reſt, nor find peace, nor ſatisfaction in all they enjoy; therefore ye little Remnant, who are called, choſen, and beloved of the Lord keep retired in the true breathing Seed, which is only ſatisfied with the incombes of the Fathers love, in that wait in the patience, and in the meek ſpirit, ſo ſhall the bleſſing, love and mercy of the Lord be your portion, and your daily recompence, from the Almighty, and happy for ever ſhall ye be that are kept faithful in your Teſtimonies, and are found in Gods Worſhip in this his day, wherein he is trying all the ſons of Men, and ſifting them as wheat; the faithful ſhall be preſerved, and by the Lord be into the Garner gathered, where ſafety yee ſhall witneſs, and daily ſatisfaction enjoy from the Almighty, and ſhall be ready for your diſſolution when ever it ſhall pleaſe the Lord to call you.

So

So to the hands of the Lord, and into the armes of the Almighty do I commit you all, making mention of you in my Prayers to God daily, beging that the Lord may fill refresh and satisfie you with his own likeness, that his power may be with you, and his glory rest upon you, that to him ye may be as a garden of Spices, and as Plants full of living virtue, that glory to God alone may be given, and to the Lamb, by you all for evermore. So the God of Heaven bless you, and water you with the dew from above and keep you in an Heavenly watchfulness, that as the Vallies receive the small rain, so ye may receive power, and strength from the Lord over every adversary, enemy, tryal and temptation, that in the way of Righteousness, ye may run to the end of the race, to the glory of the Lord for ever, *Amen*, saith the Soul of him, who for the Lord and his truths sake loveth you, and remaineth your Friend and Brother in tribulation and rejoycing,

From Edmundsbury Gaol the 17th. day of the 19th Moneth, 1665. *Tho. Green.*

Friends here are well, and the Presence of the Lord is with us; We are in all in this Prison upon all Accompts twentyfour, and their love is to Friends every where.

This to be read amongst Friends in the fear of the Living God.

THE END.